

# MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of October 17, 2007  
City Hall, 301 Washington Avenue, Bay City  
9:00 AM

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:35 AM.

The following Board members were present:

Keith Charters  
Bob Garner  
Lana Pollack (arrived later)

Mr. Torre was not in attendance due to a prior commitment.

Also in attendance were various staff members of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other interested parties.

Chairperson Garner stated that since Ms. Pollack had not yet arrived, the Board would move on to Public Appearances of those members of the audience who had filled out cards.

### III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

#### Mr. Daniel F. Herringa, Village of Lake Ann – 07-024, Lake Ann Lakefront Park Acquisition

Mr. Daniel Herringa, a citizen of the village of Lake Ann, made comments in support of 07-024, Lake Ann Lakefront Park, village of Lake Ann. He feels that the public should not be kept away from using this area. The village beachfront is ideal and is within walking distance of anyone in the village. The people living around the area want the public site to be located across the lake to the boat launch.

The newly elected village council must represent all the citizens of the village. Money is continuing to be raised for this acquisition.

#### Mr. Dale Flaherty, President of Village Council, Village of Lake Ann – 07-024, Lake Ann Lakefront Park Acquisition

Mr. Dale Flaherty, President of the village council for the village of Lake Ann, made comments in opposition of 07-024, Lake Ann Lakefront Park Acquisition, village of Lake Ann. He is the newly elected president of the village council. Of the six positions up for election, the "Concerned Citizens of Lake Ann" won five. Of the 192 people registered to vote, a record-breaking 143 people voted. The majority of the people voting did not want

the lakefront park acquisition project. They felt it was a great idea, but in the wrong location.

The main concern for the opposition is financial feasibility. The village gets \$10,000-11,000 in property taxes. In addition, the village gets \$20,000 in state revenue sharing. This annual budget goes to pay salaries, insurance, public utilities, maintenance of the existing park facilities and professional services.

The projected annual maintenance of the proposed beach park is approximately \$4,000, and not the estimated \$1,500 as noted in the grant application. The additional expenditure will exceed the amount of money the village takes in annually. Village tax bills would have to be increased by one-third to cover the additional maintenance costs.

As stated in the grant application, the village must raise \$171,000 as their share of the purchase price of the property. Of this amount, \$55,000 has been pledged. Therefore, the village must raise \$116,000. They have raised \$6,026 through various fund-raisers, but the total expense thus far is \$9,444. At this point, the village is in the "red" \$3,418.

The development cost of the proposed park will be between \$150,000 to \$300,000. This additional money must be raised by the village in order to have the facilities that were promised to the people.

The owner of the proposed beach park property has recently approached Almira Township to take over the grant for the project. It appears he has lack of confidence in the village to financially make the project a reality.

Chairperson Garner hopes that "the wrong spot and wrong time" turns into someone finding the right spot because all should be able to enjoy natural resources and have access to them. Even though the "Concerned Citizens of Lake Ann" swept all the village seats, he thinks there was a lot of "don't put that beach near me" in the voters. That is totally against the entire idea of the MNRTF, which is opening up the state's resources so people can enjoy them.

Mr. Flaherty stated that at the Lake Ann State Campground, 1500 feet down the beach is good sand. As you come in the entrance, just past the registration, there is an area that is marked off that could be used as a parking lot. From there a handicap ramp could be built.

Mr. Charters asked would this be built by the village or the state of Michigan. He has visited both locations. On the state forest campground location, which is a couple of miles from the center of Lake Ann, the MNRTF could provide money to improve this site. However, the DNR does not have any money today or in the foreseeable future to operate and maintain that location.

Mr. Charters asked Mr. Jim Wood, Manager, Grants Management, DNR, if the application was still under consideration. Mr. Wood responded yes. Mr. Charters mentioned that if the MNRTF Board approved the application, Mr. Flaherty basically said that the newly-elected village officials will not provide the matching funds.

Ms. Terri Kimble, Director, Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce; Ms. Jan Bassett and Ms. Charlene Hanson, Village Council Members, Village of Elk Rapids – 07-165, Elk Rapids Waterfront Acquisition

Ms. Terri Kimble, Director of the Elk Rapids Chamber of Commerce, and Ms. Jan Bassett, council member, village of Elk Rapids, made a presentation in support of 07-165, Elk Rapids Waterfront Acquisition, village of Elk Rapids.

The property is in the ideal location to expand public recreation for the entire chain of lakes. There are less than a dozen transient docks on the entire chain of lakes. In addition, it encompasses 100 plus miles of shoreline and over 50 square miles of connected navigable inland lakes in the lower chain. The waterway includes the nationally recognized destinations of Lakes Elk, Skegemog, Torch, Clam, Grass River and Lake Bellaire.

Elk Rapids is located between Traverse City and Charlevoix. Soon after the first settlers arrived, they constructed a dam to power the local mills. The dam in Elk Rapids now has an even more important function as it makes the entire lower chain of lakes navigable and the chain includes fourteen lakes and interconnecting rivers.

Downtown Elk Rapids is only a block from the municipal harbor on Grand Traverse Bay and is flanked by two fine beaches. Just above the harbor is the Hydroelectric Dam which features one of the heaviest used land accessible fishing sites on the Grand Traverse Bay or, for that matter, the entire upper portion of Lake Michigan. The entire length of Dexter Street makes up the impoundment of Elk Lake which defines the Upper Harbor. The village's Shoreline Pathway is the principle connector between the waterfront and the east side of town, continuing on to the boardwalk under US-31. On the south shore are the existing public docks and a boat ramp maintained by the harbor for public access to Elk Lake. At the center of these public facilities lies the property the village wishes to acquire.

The property is the final and most critical piece to tie these public facilities together. It is a critical piece because there are less than a dozen transient docks serving this vast area. All the rest are privately owned with no guarantee of staying as such. The proposed acquisition lies at the mouth of the connecting waterways.

Ms. Kimble pointed out examples of how new docks could be configured from one of the maps that were provided to the Board. Public ownership of the property's riparian rights opens a much wider range of options for extending the docks to the north shore that would not be possible otherwise.

This may be the village's last opportunity to add new docks in the entire lower chain. The issue of locating new dock sites is a serious problem. Virtually no new sites exist where public dockage could be proposed without significant impacts on sensitive ecosystems, or where nearby private property owners would raise objections.

Additional public transient dockage on the entire lower Antrim Chain is seriously needed. The village may offer the last opportunity to build additional docks. The infrastructure is already in place around the new dockage site and the Grace Harbor staff is ready to assume maintenance and daily oversight of the new dock facilities.

Public docks are by definition high density boating so it makes sense to locate new docks in an area zoned for higher density and adjacent to a traditional “main street” downtown. It also builds on the idea of cluster zoning that planners are encouraging.

Docks in Elk Rapids, whether on Grand Traverse Bay or Elk Lake, are simply extensions of the downtown sidewalk and trail system. Importantly, the entire complex of sidewalks, trails and docks is barrier-free. The new docks will be affordable access as well. The Harbor at Elk Rapids currently charge the lowest baseline dockage rates allowable under state guidelines. The traditional neighborhoods that surround the waterfront and the downtown make up a middle class community which prides itself on a mix of affluent and modest families. The average family can afford to spend the day in Elk Rapids.

Because of its unique location on the waterfront, the proposed property has been a property of interest of the village for a long time. The village’s recreation plan calls for the addition of slips in the Elk River basin adjacent to the Bech property.

The village has, in the past, funded its own projects. The owner is motivated to sell, and while he has expressed the desire to see the property in public hands, the village realizes any developer can see the potential for this site.

Mr. Charters pointed out some areas on the map where he had questions about the property. Ms. Kimble and Ms. Bassett responded to these questions. Mr. Charters asked what the size of the property was. Ms. Kimble responded it was .74 acre. Mr. Charters asked what the cost of the property was. Ms. Kimble responded that the asking price that was put into the grant was \$3 million, but it will depend on the appraisal.

Mr. Mark Randolph, Executive Director, Grass River Natural Area, Antrim County – 07-113, Grass River Center, Antrim County

Mr. Mark Randolph, Executive Director, Grass River Natural Area, wished to honor Board member Sam Washington, who passed away unexpectedly on October 10, 2007. He was a great friend to conservation and will be greatly missed.

Mr. Randolph also stated that at the last Board meeting there was a discussion relating to 10-year projections of the MNRTF and when it will reach its cap. He did some calculations and would like the Board to consider capping grants at \$32 million a year and any amount over this be put in the Stabilization Fund until the cap is reached. Once the cap is reached, the interest on the Stabilization Fund would allow the Board to award grants at \$32 million per year.

Chairperson Garner stated that the way he understands it, the Stabilization Fund does not have the same legal protections as was written into the corpus of the MNRTF. He would want to investigate what the people of the state of Michigan voted for and what exactly the language is before creating another fund.

At this point, Mr. Randolph made a presentation in support of 07-113, Grass River Center, Antrim County. This project is to develop a nature center building at the Grass River Natural Area. It would serve as an interpretation area and provide restroom facilities.

Chairperson Garner stated he would like attendees of the “special session” that was held after the regular MNRTF Board on August 15, 2007, to write out comments or remarks and provide them to Grants Management staff. At some point in time, he would like Grants Management staff to codify all comments and remarks. He would like to have a “special session” meeting next year.

At approximately 10:10 AM, Ms. Pollack was in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Brian Price, Executive Director, Leelanau Conservancy

Mr. Brian Price, Executive Director of the Leelanau Conservancy, echoed comments made about Mr. Washington, and that he was a great conservationist and will be missed.

Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director, Little Traverse Conservancy

Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director of the Little Traverse Conservancy, paid tribute to Mr. Washington. There are not words enough to express his loss nor commend him for his service, not only to conservation, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, or his passion for public access, but also to the public legacy that was so dear to him. We are all grateful for his service and we will miss him.

Mr. Bailey made some comments regarding 07-164, DeTour Village Waterfront Property Acquisition, village of DeTour. There is a shipwreck that lies in shallow water visible from this piece of property. This is a great piece of property for the public.

Mr. Bailey wished to thank the Board for the “special session” meeting held on August 15, 2007. He provided the Board with written comments and suggestions from the meeting. Highlights of these comments/suggestions include using MNRTF revenues to fund a bond issue to include four categories of land: 1) waterfront; 2) land adjoining state property; 3) state land inholdings; and 4) funding a perpetual version of the Commercial Forest Act, especially in the Upper Peninsula.

At this point, Chairperson Garner officially opened the MNRTF Board meeting. He wished to thank the city of Bay City for hosting the meeting and providing the beautiful city hall facilities.

Chairperson Garner advised the audience that, for those who did not know, Board member Sam Washington passed away October 10, 2007. This has been a very difficult time for all who knew him well. Sam was a very close friend of Chairperson Garner. Sam was passionate about public access for all citizens. He also was a minister and biblical scholar, who knew classic literature and music. He was the greatest “explainer” and communicator. He was a tremendous man of faith. Chairperson Garner will miss him and it was hard to see his passing.

At this point, Chairperson Garner read a resolution to Mr. Washington on behalf of the MNRTF Board. The resolution is as follows:

*“Resolution in Honor of the Service and Accomplishments of Sam Washington*

*We honor Sam Washington and his memory with this resolution:*

*WHEREAS: Sam Washington came out of retirement from Michigan's educational system to become the Executive Director of the Michigan United Conservation Clubs because he saw the opportunity to carry on that agency's legacy of 'Conservation through Education'; and*

*WHEREAS: Mr. Washington was appointed to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board by Governor Jennifer Granholm in December, 2002 and reappointed in November, 2006; and*

*WHEREAS: Mr. Washington served on the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board of Trustees with dedication and distinction, including two years as Chair; and*

*WHEREAS: During Mr. Washington's term as Chair, many notable accomplishments occurred, including the celebration of the program's thirty years of success and service to the people of the state of Michigan and the award of 113 grants worth over \$73 million; and*

*WHEREAS: Mr. Washington's passion for the public's right to enjoy the natural world resonated throughout the state, and he was a tireless champion for the cause of securing access to Michigan's waterways and recreation lands for all citizens, regardless of their income or social status; and*

*WHEREAS: Mr. Washington devoted enormous time and energy to his service on the Trust Fund Board, making many personal visits to project sites so that he could see the work of the Trust Fund program first hand, always representing the program with dignity and pride; and*

*It is with the deepest regret that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board learned of Mr. Washington's death on October 10, 2007, leaving a great sense of loss to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Program, the people of the state of Michigan, and most especially, his family and many friends;*

*THEREFORE: The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board passes this Resolution to honor the service and accomplishments of Sam Washington on this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2007."*

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. POLLACK, TO  
ADOPT THE RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE AND  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SAM WASHINGTON. PASSED.**

Ms. Pollack made some additional comments about Mr. Washington. She expressed her sadness at Sam's passing. She had great respect for him, and he was a man of extraordinary integrity and intelligence. He was one of the best-read individuals that she has known and he was a friend to Michigan. We should all keep his values and integrity in mind when the Board makes their decisions on behalf of the coming generations of people who will witness the most beautiful place on earth.

Mr. Charters echoed Ms. Pollack's sentiments. Mr. Washington was a great conservationist and friend of natural resources. These days we need more friends like him. He will also be remembered, as his brother, Tom Washington, is remembered. Mr. Charters has lost a good, personal friend.

Mr. Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy, DNR, stated that Mr. Washington was an inspiration to all of us at the staff level. He echoes the comments that others have stated. His loss is felt and shared equally by DNR staff, as well as others in the conservation community.

At this point, Chairperson Garner returned to the order of meeting agenda items.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2007.

Chairperson Garner called for the adoption of the minutes for the August 15, 2007 Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MS. POLLACK, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO  
APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 15, 2007 MNRTF BOARD  
MEETING. PASSED.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2007.

Chairperson Garner called for the adoption of the agenda for the October 17, 2007 Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. POLLACK, TO  
APPROVE THE AGENDA OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2007 MNRTF BOARD  
MEETING. PASSED.**

III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES (continued).

Dr. Charles Nelson, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resources Studies, Michigan State University – Update on Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Dr. Charles Nelson, Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resources Studies, Michigan State University, provided an update via PowerPoint of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP). Every five years, the state of Michigan needs to prepare and file with the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service a SCORP to maintain eligibility for funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

The SCORP needs to do the following:

- Incorporates ample public input
- Address issues of statewide importance
- Have implementation component
- Contain a wetlands priority component consistent with federal 1986 Emergency Wetlands Resources Act
- Use cooperation and coordination between the state and the National Park Service

The five-year overarching plan for Michigan's outdoor recreation direction includes:

- Incorporates major outdoor recreation initiatives (trails, universal access, etc.)
- Summarizes Michigan outdoor recreation information
- Mandate to be eligible for federal LWCF grants – these funds are derived from off-shore oil/gas leases and royalties and administered by the National Park Service
- Influences other federal/state cooperation (hydroelectric relicensing, trails, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers and historic preservation)
- The National Park Service provides SCORP planning grants

The 2003 SCORP had seven major initiatives of statewide significance. These were:

- Conservation
- Land and water trails
- Universal access
- Community recreation
- State forest recreation
- State park recreation
- Cooperation/coordination among providers

The 2003 SCORP expires December 31, 2007. It is important to note that over the past five years, 56% of Michigan's \$12.7 million LWCF allocation was made available to local units, with the state receiving 44% for projects. All funding has been for development projects.

Data was gathered from 773 local units of government plans and a local inventory was conducted. Plans are to set up a system where this information is regularly catalogued and easier to find. A mail survey of 2,000 randomly selected Michigan registered voters was also conducted. In addition, the survey was sent to all 773 local units of government who had a current or recent outdoor recreation plan on file with the DNR. The survey asked about recreation interests—what they would like to see included in the SCORP.

From the 773 recreation plans reviewed, it was determined that there were 214,000 acres of local parkland in 6,289 parks. The DNR has over 1,000 files of recreation plans for local units of government that have had plans in the past. Only 467 of these files have active, current recreation plans. Some local units have fallen away from applying for grants due to challenges with matching funds necessary for grant money.

State resources consist of 4.5 million acres, which is 12% of Michigan. There are 3.9 million acres in the state forest system; .3 million acres in game, wildlife and research areas; and .05 million acres in 746 state boating access sites and 16 state harbors of refuge—combined with local units, there is a total of 1,024 public boating access sites and 80 harbors of refuge.

In Michigan, there are 6,216 miles of snowmobile trails and 3,193 miles of ORV trails. In addition, there are 1,145 miles of rail-trails, 880 miles each of nonmotorized trails in state parks, and 880 miles of nonmotorized state forest pathways. In addition, there are two



million acres in the Commercial Timber Act, which provides public hunting and fishing on enrolled private lands.

Federal resources include three million acres in Michigan, of which 2.7 million acres is in four National Forests, .2 million acres in National Park Service areas, and .1 million acres in National Wildlife Refuges.

Michigan's population grew by 6.9% from 1990-2000. Citizens in the age group of 40s, 50s and early 60s are the growing generation. The shrinking population is late 20s and early 30s. Michigan is a diversity society and growth is uneven. Much of the growth is not population, but sprawl.

The survey was sent to 2,001 randomly selected registered voters. Of this total, 460 completed the questionnaire (26%). Of the surveys completed and returned, 51% stated that outdoor recreation was very important; 35% moderately important. More than half reported household members walk, relax outdoors, drive for pleasure, sightsee, swim outdoors, picnic, bicycle or fish in Michigan. The five most important outdoor recreation activities were to walk outdoors, relax outdoors, fish, hunt and camp. Seventy-five percent have visited a public outdoor recreation venue within the past 12 months.

The survey also asked what the level of support was for all of the 2003-07 SCORP priorities---strongest for conservation (93%); all the other initiatives were supported by approximately 75%.

The survey was also sent to 773 local providers with a current/recent plan on file with the DNR. The level of support for all of the 2003-07 SCORP priorities in this survey group was, again, conservation, with 96% supporting. Less than 25% had additional priorities for the SCORP, but trails were the strongest suggestion.

Dr. Nelson stated that what is being recommended is to keep the seven initiatives from the 2003-07 SCORP. The rationale for this would be the strong voter support, strong local provider support and the strong support in complementary initiatives in the DNR and elsewhere. It is also proposed to add the following two additional initiatives:

- Hunter and angler recruitment and retention---two out of the five most important activities for Michigan voters; one of four highest for DNR (hunting/fishing provides largest share of operations funding for conservation in Michigan); capital improvements and complementary programming can provide important gateway for new, returning and continuing participants.
- Green technology in parks and recreation---to focus on energy savings, recycling/reuse, pollution abatement; demonstrate leadership in conservation/stewardship; reduce long-term costs; and educate public with hands-on examples.

The draft SCORP has been available on the DNR website since September 25, 2007. There is a 30-day public comment period to the DNR website or by mail to the DNR. Five public workshops have/will be held---Grand Rapids (October 9), Detroit (October 11), Bay City (October 12), Marquette (October 16), and Roscommon (October 18). Additional public input/presentations have been before Citizens Committee on Michigan State Parks, MNRTF Board, Michigan Waterways Commission, DNR Accessibility

Advisory Council, and Michigan Trails and Greenway Alliance. The draft SCORP will be revised based on comments received. The final SCORP will be published in November 2007. The schedule will then be:

- Natural Resources Commission (NRC) information item, November 2007
- NRC action item and public hearing, December 2007
- Approved by the NRC, December 2007
- Approved by Governor, December 2007
- Presented to the National Park Service, December 31, 2007

Mr. Charters stated he did not see the legislature identified on the schedule. Dr. Nelson responded that there has not been a requirement that the SCORP be presented to the legislature. Mr. Charters mentioned that the DNR has not had much success funding- and public relations-wise from the legislature, and perhaps making them aware of the SCORP and what the public's interests are may help. He also asked if there was a hard-copy of the PowerPoint presentation, and if so, if copies could be provided to all NRC commissioners. Dr. Nelson stated copies will be provided.

Mr. Charters wondered if there could be a slightly retooled version of the SCORP to send to the legislature. Dr. Nelson responded that the seven-page summary of the SCORP could be provided to them.

Ms. Pollack echoed Mr. Charters' comments, and asked that staff try and schedule presentations for the appropriate committees in the legislature, and that they be sent the SCORP summary. She would also like to see meetings scheduled with the four caucus leaders. She feels the legislature needs to identify with what the DNR and Board are doing. This could be done with the DNR scheduling meetings with legislators or possibly with combination of DNR/Michigan United Conservation Clubs or other environmental groups.

Mr. Fedewa stated that we should have the 2008 budget bill at the end of this month, and the DNR is in the process of the beginning stages of fiscal year 2009, except development. Usually at the kick-off of that process and deliberations with the legislature, we usually talk about programmatic issues before the actual finances, not what the executive recommendation may be for fiscal year 2009. Oftentimes the different chairs of the committees and standing committees are open to different subject areas that could be discussed in a committee setting. He feels the SCORP would be something they would be open to hear.

Ms. Pollack would like to have a report at the December Board meeting as to how the contacts went with the legislature. Also, she feels this may be an opportunity to enhance the message to local leaders. Dr. Nelson stated that the Mr. Mike Maisner, Director of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association have provided this information to local units of government. Ms. Pollack would like to request that Mr. Maisner and his associates join in presentations or do their own presentation.

Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR – Presentation of DNR Applications

Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR, made a PowerPoint presentation of the DNR's grant applications that have been submitted for possible funding in 2007. Ms. Kerry Wieber, Forest Land Administrator, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, DNR, also assisted in the presentation.

Ms. Koch briefly outlined how the DNR creates applications for MNRTF funding. The process starts throughout the state and at the field staff level, which have identified priority parcels for purchase with their different planning processes and activities. This is usually done by field staff at individual division levels. The priorities come into the Lansing offices where the Land Transaction Review team starts to look at the priorities on a statewide basis and broadening the review to look at priorities on a department level.

The division priorities are looking at such things as if the parcels are within their boundaries (state park or state game area boundaries). These are high priority parcels for the DNR to acquire. This relates directly to the land consolidation process that the DNR has been working on since 2004 with the Natural Resources Commission. This has identified not only priorities for purchase, but priorities to sell or move into other public or private ownerships. Ms. Wieber provided the Board with information on the land consolidation process at their April meeting.

The DNR also looks at natural resources values, recreation potential and cultural resources values.

The DNR has submitted 15 acquisition and 9 development applications. There are many other parcels of interest that have come from DNR field staff as high priorities to be in public ownership. A tiering system is used for the applications submitted---Tier 1 and Tier 2. Ms. Koch and the division chiefs make the determination as to which tier applications will be placed in. In addition, the DNR looks at what other types of funding could possibly be used to leverage MNRTF funding. The DNR also takes into consideration the Board's priorities and how the application would score. Establishing partnerships with conservation groups that are interested in assisting the DNR with acquisition, development or management of properties is also reviewed. The land consolidation process is a high priority of the DNR when reviewing and tiering the applications.

Ms. Koch stated that the DNR is requesting \$30.82 million in acquisition projects. Two acquisition applications have been withdrawn. In addition, over \$5 million has been moved into the Tier 2 category, meaning that at this time they are a lesser priority for the DNR.

Ms. Koch identified and briefly described the following Tier 1 acquisition projects:

07-121, Chippewa Landing Acquisition - \$800,000. This is for acquisition of a 103-acre inholding, with 3,272 feet of Manistee River frontage. There is a deer wintering yard providing for winter browse and thermal cover.

Mr. Charters asked if this was an inholding for state or federal land. Ms. Koch responded it would be for state land. Mr. Charters asked if DRIP funds were also going to be used for this acquisition. Ms. Koch responded that at this point, only MNRTF funds would be used.

07-168, Jaxon Creek Corridor Acquisition - \$1,050,000. This is for acquisition of a 376-acre inholding, with 5,500 feet of Jaxon Creek frontage, which is a designated natural river. There are 226 acres of high quality wetlands and 195 acres of deer wintering yard.

07-122, State Trailways Initiative-Corridor and Acquisition - \$1.5 million. This acquisition is for 260 miles of dismantled rail corridor in various locations throughout state forest lands. The original request was for \$2 million.

07-134, Au Train Basin Waterfowl Refuge Project - \$2.5 million. This is for acquisition of up to 1,496 acres of high quality wildlife habitat. It is a wildlife refuge. There is a leased state forest campground in the area. It is also an important staging area for migrating birds.

07-133, North Maumee Bay Coastal Wetland Acquisition - \$1 million. This is for acquisition of 126 acres in the Erie State Game Area, with 9,200 feet of Lake Erie frontage, and 3,960 feet of Ottawa River frontage. The area provides an important wintering area for migrating birds. The DNR's original request from the MNRTF was \$2 million, but has now secured \$1 million in Coastal Wetlands funding.

07-131, Sterling State Park Acquisition - \$1.85 million. This is an acquisition the DNR has been attempting to acquire for several years. This would be to acquire 52 acres near the entrance which is zoned for development. This acquisition is needed to modify and improve the entrance to the park. In addition, this acquisition would provide for and maintain the wildlife habitat for waterfowl and grassland birds.

Mr. Charters asked how much has been spent on Sterling State Park in the last ten years. Mr. Fedewa responded around \$20 million.

07-167, Wisconsin Electric Energies Land Acquisition - \$1.9 million. This is for the acquisition of 1,500 acres inside or adjacent to state lands, with 11.5 miles of additional river frontage, and in the Sturgeon River valley area. This acquisition is the highest priority for the DNR to meet its mission.

At this point, Ms. Koch outlined the requests for eco-regional land consolidation acquisitions, more commonly known as "lump sum" requests. These are multi-divisional applications in four statewide eco-regional areas that are critical to accomplishing ecosystem management and land consolidation. The ecosystem management is to process integrating biological, social and economic factors into comprehensive strategy aimed at protecting and enhancing sustainability, diversity and productivity of natural resources. Land consolidation is for acquisition of privately-owned lands that fall within the dedicated DNR boundaries.

The eco-regional land consolidation requests are as follows:

07-123, Upper Peninsula Eco-Regional Land Consolidation - \$1.5 million. The acquisition request was reduced from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million. Acquisition priority areas include Chippewa County winter deer yard, Luce County critical dunes, and the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park inholdings in Ontonagon County.

07-119, Northern Lower Peninsula Eco-Region Land Consolidation - \$1.5 million. The acquisition request was reduced from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million. Acquisition priority areas include Montmorency County elk habitat, Grand Traverse County inholdings critical for resource management and the Rifle River Recreation Area inholding in Ogemaw County.

07-135, Southwest Lower Peninsula Eco-Regional Land Consolidation - \$1.5 million. The acquisition request was reduced from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million. This acquisition area includes 20 state park and recreation areas, 37 state game areas, and four natural rivers. Priorities include hunting and fishing opportunities and preservation of unique habitat.

07-117, Southeast Michigan Eco-Region - \$1.5 million. The acquisition request was reduced from \$2.5 million to \$1.5 million. This acquisition area includes a population of 6.4 million of the state's 10.1 million people and is within an 18-county area. It also includes access on Lake Huron, Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie. The acquisition area includes 23 state park and recreation areas, 34 state game areas, three state harbors, two state historic sites, two historic state parks, one natural river, and 315 lakes over 100 acres in size with no public access.

Ms. Koch advised the Board that there are two acquisition applications that were placed in Tier 2. These applications are as follows:

07-120, Betsie River State Forest - \$1.3 million  
07-169, Superior Forest Partnership Project-Phase I - \$4,070,100

Two applications were withdrawn—07-115, Big Rock Natural Area (\$3 million); and 07-132, Sargent Sand Property (\$1 million).

Ms. Pollack asked questions about the two withdrawn projects. It was her understanding that the Board would not be considering the Big Rock Natural Area project this year. Ms. Koch responded that was correct. Ms. Pollack also asked about 07-132, Sargent Sand Property. Ms. Koch responded that the DNR has gone through discussions for many years with the owners of this property. At times, there would be some positive feedback, but in the course of discussions it always returned to not a willing seller.

Mr. Charters asked if the DNR was out of money in the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund. Ms. Koch responded there is money right now, but are projects that have been approved for that funding. There are more projects in line to fund than there is money in the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund.

Ms. Koch stated that development application requests were for \$4.2 million. In Tier 1, the requests were \$2,310,000; and in Tier 2, the application requests were \$1,950,000. She did not outline the DNR's development applications.

Ms. Carol Fulsher, Lake Superior Community Partnership; and Mr. Chuck Hurst, Trustee, Republic Township – Iron Ore Heritage Trail – Proposed Project

Ms. Carol Fulsher, Lake Superior Community Partnership; and Mr. Chuck Hurst, Trustee, Republic Township provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Iron Ore Heritage Trail proposed project. This project is a 48-mile multi-use trail which would connect the communities of Republic and Chocolay Township.

Marquette County has the largest mountain bike race in Michigan, with over 2,000 people. In addition, the county has the fourth largest cross-country ski race in the country. Private property has been used for these races. The proposed 48-mile Iron Ore Heritage Trail will provide for year-round use.

Upon investigation it was determined that the county has 75% of railroad grades owned by the state--Republic north to Humboldt, Humboldt to Ishpeming, Marquette Township and Chocolay Township. Ishpeming to Negaunee to Marquette are city-owned grades. There have been discussions with private property owners in Ishpeming, Negaunee and Negaunee Township.

The trail would enhance the corridors and make connections for diverse use groups including walkers, hikers, equestrians, bikers, roller bladers, ATV's, snowmobile, and cross-country skiing. This trail would also enhance the sites and stories of the 160-year old mining history (depots, mine shafts, ore docks and architecture). In addition, there are existing mining museums in the area—Pascoe Museum in Republic, Cliffs Shaft Museum, Michigan Iron Industry Museum and the Marquette County History Museum.

Mr. Hurst informed the Board that this trail would also conserve resources. An example of this is the Republic wetlands, which is a reclamation area of Cleveland Cliffs (CCI). This should be available to the public next year. Wetlands that are preserved today are 2300 acres of approximately four square miles. There are 15 miles of trails in place in the preserve. A wetlands conservation easement was conveyed to the state of Michigan, and last year the Department of Environmental Quality signed off on the amended requirements under the Mitigation Act.

Ms. Fulsher continued by stating that the trail would provide for education and interpretation for residents and visitors with the major theme being "Veins of Ore—The Lifeblood of this Nation." In addition, tourism and economic development are important factors, as the trail based events would attract thousands to the area.

The Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority was formed in May 2007. The ten municipalities involved in the authority are cities of Marquette, Ishpeming and Negaunee, plus townships of Chocolay, Marquette, Negaunee, Tilden, Ely, Humboldt and Republic. Marquette County is also involved with the authority. Other partners involved are the Department of History, Arts and Libraries, National Park Service, DNR, Michigan Department of Transportation, Lake Superior Community Partnership, Marquette County, Museums, Northern Michigan University and artists.

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum will have two-thirds of a mile interpretive trail with lookouts, signage, etc. The Iron Ore Heritage Trail will connect with the museum through the city of Negaunee property.

Mr. Charters stated that this is a wonderful project; however, the Board received a copy of a letter addressed to Governor Granholm from Marquette County Commissioner Gerald Corkin complaining about the state of Michigan continuing to purchase more properties. He suggested that Ms. Fulsher lobby in Marquette County for support of the proposed trail. Chairperson Garner agreed. Ms. Pollack added that local units of government have taken more than their share of cuts in the structural deficits that the state is experiencing. These local units should be lobbied to support tax revenues.

Ms. Julie Cowie, Clerk; Mr. Allan W. Overhiser, Supervisor, Casco Township; and Ms. Eileen Mead, Chair, Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee – 07-170, Casco Township Nature Preserve Acquisition

Ms. Julie Cowie, Clerk, Casco Township, made a presentation in support of 07-170, Casco Township Nature Preserve Acquisition. This project would be to acquire 8.5 acres and 300 feet of Lake Michigan frontage. The parcel is heavily-wooded and undeveloped with no existing structures. In addition, the site offers universally accessible and spectacular views of Lake Michigan, bird watching, wildlife observation, nature education, fishing and other recreational pursuits.

Casco Township is located in southwest Allegan County, just north of the city of South Haven. This area has been experiencing increasing high-end development on the west border. Properties along Lake Michigan are being privately developed. Just three percent of Allegan County's Lake Michigan shoreline is accessible to the public.

Litigation has taken away public land in Casco Township. The township has lost two public access points on Lake Michigan through recent court cases. One was for 600 feet of frontage, and the other was for 300 feet. Both cases were appealed, with the second case pending.

The proposed nature preserve would be used by a wider population than just township residents. These include South Haven residents, second home owners and visitors to both Allegan and Van Buren counties. The township has three golf courses, and the South Haven Recreational Park features fields for organized sports.

The acquisition would be at half price--\$1.75 million—which is valued at \$3.5 million. Mrs. Marie Stefan, the 98-year-old landowner, wishes to make this land available for use as a public park. The Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy has been working with the Stefan family. Parameters of the deal would become much more complicated after Mrs. Stefan is deceased.

Casco Township voters passed a parks and recreation millage in 2006, which would be used to operate the preserve.

The Stefans, who are Chicago residents, used the parcel just for picnicking. There are no structures on the site. Mr. Stefan would drive from Chicago on weekends just to mow the grass and relax.

The site also features a rare, ecologically interesting and likely endangered habitat comprised of a wetlands area on the buffer face.

In conclusion, Ms. Cowie stated that over 150 letters of support accompanied the grant application. She urged the Board to support funding for this project in this cycle, so Mrs. Stefan's desire to establish a nature preserve is granted.

Chairperson Garner mentioned that even if the Board recommended funding for this acquisition project this year, it is still up to the legislature to approve the funding. Projects funded in December of 2007 could take up to the end of 2008 to be approved.

Ms. Claire Schultz, Chair, DeTour Area Parks and Recreation Committee; and Mr. Terry Nelson, President, Village of DeTour Village – 07-164, DeTour Village Waterfront Property Acquisition

Ms. Claire Schultz, Chair of DeTour Area Parks and Recreation Committee; and Mr. Terry Nelson, President of the village of DeTour Village, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of 07-164, DeTour Village Waterfront Property Acquisition.

Mr. Nelson advised the Board that this acquisition application has been submitted previously. He will outline the partnership of the two governmental units (village of DeTour Village and DeTour Township) which comprises the DeTour Area Parks and Recreation Committee.

Ms. Schultz stated that when the application was submitted previously, and subsequently not funded, after further review, it was felt that the biggest concern of the Board was that the focus was more on the lighthouse and activities rather than recreation. The people involved with the lighthouse have moved on and found another place to produce their tours and activities. The village of DeTour Village and DeTour Township still feel that this property is a prime piece of waterfront property that should belong to the village rather than being developed commercially.

There are three main focuses for the property: deep water fishing pier that would be handicap-accessible, trailhead for bikers and hikers, and a dedicated launch ramp for kayaks and canoes. The property is very long and narrow; however, it is a very unique piece of property.

Ms. Schultz pointed out aspects of the property via a map on the PowerPoint presentation. She stated that there are two other boat launches, both operated by DNR. There is a lot of activity with fishing boats. The proposed acquisition property would be a natural seclude and would be excellent for kayaks and canoes. This could also be used as a diving preserve for divers.

One of the main focuses of the property is to have a trailhead for bikers and hikers. In the eastern Upper Peninsula, there is a new North Huron Scenic Pathway Trail that is being developed. This trail would start in Mackinac County at St. Ignace and continuing up through Chippewa County, up to Hessel, Cedarville, DeTour and across to Drummond Island. Two counties, along with seven entities, raised the money to start the pre-engineering studies. The trail is expected to be completed in about 10 years in its entirety. The village of DeTour needs to have a place for a trailhead, and this site would be the perfect area.



Presently there is a 40' x 80' brick building which needs a lot of renovation. Proposals for this building would be for restrooms, showers, locker area, concession stand, bait shop and open-type picnic area. There would also be more picnic tables and a bike rack put in the area. Kiosks would be placed in the area to help with mapping of the trail.

The village owns a piece of property near the site which would be developed for additional parking. There is a storage building on the existing village site which would be used to store picnic tables, benches and other equipment.

Chairperson Garner asked how much acreage was involved with the acquisition and what the cost was. Ms. Schultz responded a little over two acres and cost of the property is \$670,000. The landowner is donating the 25 percent for the match money. The amount being requested from the MNRTF is \$495,000.

Mr. Nelson added that the acquisition is a partnership between the village of DeTour Village and DeTour Township. There is a governmental agreement for the economic development, parks and recreation, emergency services, etc.

This property would be a cornerstone for the village in its design. The village and township trustees are committed to the preservation of the lake frontage. The village has acquired two plots down the street from the proposed acquisition site and turned them into botanical gardens.

The acquisition will be a natural launching site for underwater preserve. Two of the shipwrecks are viewable from the property. In addition, this will be the trailhead for the North Huron Pathway.

Mr. Nelson feels this is a unique opportunity to preserve 800 feet along the St. Mary's River. Also, this property could be sold to a developer at any time, which would close it off for public use.

Mr. John Griffith, North Woods Conservancy – TF05-078, Gratiot River County Park Addition, Keweenaw County

Mr. John Griffith, North Woods Conservancy, made some comments regarding the appraisal for TF05-078, Gratiot River County Park, Keweenaw County. Progress is being made. The situation is urgent from the interim ownership position and the county's side. He wished to thank staff from the Real Estate Section and other DNR staff for their assistance.

Mr. Griffith also expressed his sympathy for the loss of Mr. Washington. Mr. Washington was a great conservationist, and Mr. Griffith appreciated his efforts to provide public access for all.

Mr. Griffith further stated that although the real estate market has slowed, the cost for waterfront property in the Upper Peninsula has continued to go up about 10 percent a year. Properties that are adjacent to state forest or conservancy properties with access are in demand.

Due to the fact that Ms. Pollack needed to leave the meeting, Chairperson Garner switched the order of agenda items to go to "New Business."

V. NEW BUSINESS.

2008 Meeting Schedule

The proposed dates of MNRTF Board meetings for 2008 are as follows:

**February 20**  
**April 16**  
**June 18**  
**August 20**  
**October 15**  
**December 2 (evening meeting)**  
**December 3 (regular meeting)**

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. POLLACK TO APPROVE THE MNRTF BOARD MEETING DATES FOR 2008, AS PRESENTED BY STAFF. PASSED.**

TF05-068, Beaverton Fishing Piers, City of Beaverton – **PROJECT CHANGE.**

Mr. Wood outlined the proposed project change for TF05-068, Beaverton Fishing Piers, city of Beaverton. The city is requesting a reduction in scope from two fishing piers to one.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. POLLACK, TO APPROVE THE PROJECT CHANGE REQUEST FOR TF05-068, BEAVERTON FISHING PIERS, CITY OF BEAVERTON, WHICH REQUIRES A REDUCTION IN SCOPE, FROM TWO FISHING PIERS TO ONE. PASSED.**

TF02-052, Wolverine Lumberman's Memorial Park, Village of Wolverine – **PROJECT WITHDRAWAL.**

No discussion.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. POLLACK, TO APPROVE THE PROJECT WITHDRAWAL FOR TF02-052, WOLVERINE LUMBERMAN'S MEMORIAL PARK, VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE. PASSED.**

At this point, Ms. Pollack left the meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS.

Update on "Access to Recreation" Initiative

Ms. Linda Hegstrom, Grant Coordinator, Grants Management, DNR, updated the Board on the "Access to Recreation" Initiative. This has been a challenging, exciting and educational experience to figure out how to initiate the "Access to Recreation" Initiative into the MNRTF program so the goals of the Kellogg Foundation could be met, while not changing the priorities of the MNRTF Board.

Phase I of the “Access to Recreation” Initiative included:

- A set of factors was developed for evaluating applications under the MNRTF Special Initiative for Universal Access. Points earned under this Initiative increase the overall score of the application, as well as determine eligibility for “Access to Recreation” funding.
- A leveraging scenario was developed, with one-half of the cost of the awarded projects being funded by “Access to Recreation” funds (made up of one-half of the applicant’s proposed match and one-half of the amount of requested MNRTF funds). The applicant and the MNRTF will provide the remaining funding. This scenario will result in the additional award of up to 40 points under the Local Match criterion.
- Revising all application materials to incorporate information and requirements for applying for “Access to Recreation” Initiative funding.

Grants Management staff have been active in efforts to integrate the “Access to Recreation” Initiative into the MNRTF application cycle and to educate potential applicants. Activities included:

- Staff attended training courses offered by the DNR Accessibility team in summer/fall 2006 to increase knowledge of ADA accessibility requirements. Almost all Grants Management staff members received this training.
- In January 2007, Ms. Cindy Burkhour, “Access to Recreation” consultant, met with grant coordinators to discuss the definition of universal accessibility and aspects of incorporating it into the design of recreation facilities.
- A document was prepared for grant coordinators to use that summarizes state and federal accessibility laws and regulations, defines universal accessibility, provide guidance on interpreting accessibility requirements for grant programs and lists a number of references on accessibility.
- Grants Management staff conducted grant application workshops in Bay City, Lansing, Traverse City, St. Ignace and Marquette. The presentation was also given twice at the Michigan Recreation and Park Association annual conference in Grand Rapids.

As of the April 2, 2007 application deadline, the MNRTF program received 108 applications for funding from state and local applicants to develop outdoor recreation facilities. Of these, 101 were determined to be eligible for MNRTF funding consideration and 90 of these requested to be considered for Access to Recreation funding as well. After screening the applications, it was discovered that few applicants fully understood the difference between the legal requirements for barrier-free accessibility and universal accessibility. This reduced the eligible applications considerably.

Following the receipt of applications, an application review team for universal accessibility was formed consisting of Grants Management Grant Coordinators, Recreation Grants Unit Manager Deborah Apostol, Ms. Burkhour and Mr. Bill Milzarski of

the Michigan Commission on Disability Concerns. A process was developed for reviewing applications. It was decided that only applications that provided enough information to evaluate the technical details of the project design for universal accessibility or those that seemed to have a high potential for improvement would be reviewed by the team.

The review team discussed how to encourage applicants to improve their applications. It was agreed that the applicants would likely benefit most from receiving guidance on designing specific types of facilities, such as fishing piers and boat launches. A list of the types of facilities proposed in the 2007 MNRTF applications was submitted to Ms. Burkhour who developed the guidance.

Once Grants Management staff completed their preliminary review of all MNRTF applications, the review team met again to discuss scoring the applications for universal accessibility. All applications that provided adequate information for evaluating or appeared to have a potential for points for "Access to Recreation" funding were discussed by the team and a preliminary score was assigned to each.

In August, Grants Management sent applicants their preliminary application score and an evaluation of the application. The guidance on designing specific types of facilities for universal accessibility which was developed by Ms. Burkhour, along with other information pertaining to universal accessibility, was included in the preliminary evaluation package.

At this time, Grants Management staff is in the process of completing the final evaluation of MNRTF applications. As part of the final evaluation, the review team will meet again to determine the final score for the Special Initiative for Universal Access for each application and to determine "Access to Recreation" eligibility (maximum 30 points). Applications eligible for "Access to Recreation" funding will also be awarded 40 points under the MNRTF Local Match criterion due to the increase in match by "Access to Recreation" funds.

In November the Board will receive a ranked list of all development applications that received points under the Special Initiative for Universal Access, along with information on which applications were determined to be eligible for "Access to Recreation" funding. Only projects the Board recommends for funding at the December meeting will be awarded "Access to Recreation" funding as well.

Phase 2 of the "Access to Recreation" Initiative will be to evaluate the effectiveness of Phase I once the 2007 MNRTF application cycle has been completed and as part of the development of the 2008 application materials. Staff has begun revising the community recreation plan guidelines to encourage communities to incorporate universal accessibility into their parks and recreation planning.

At this point, Chairperson Garner mentioned that the Board had received a letter from Emmet County offering to host the Board's June 18, 2008 meeting. He would like staff to look into going to Emmet County for this meeting, depending on travel allowances and budget.

Chairperson Garner also stated that Mr. Tim Schreiner of Grand Traverse County would like the Board to attend the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Conference, which will be held January of 2008 at the Grand Traverse Resort. The Board may not be able to attend the meeting this year, but perhaps the following year.

## VI. STATUS REPORTS.

### DNR Real Estate Report

Mr. Wood advised the Board that this report has been included in the Board's package. It identifies the lands that have been acquired since the last Board meeting.

Mr. Charters asked if the Kamehameha property is now complete. Ms. Helen Taylor, Director of The Nature Conservancy, responded yes.

At this point, Chairperson Garner advised the Board and audience that he was contacted by the state of Iowa Legislature. The state of Iowa is looking at alternative sources of conservation funding. Chairman Garner will be going to Iowa to outline the MNRTF program to a joint committee of the Iowa Legislature on November 1.

### Financial Report

Mr. Wood advised the Board that these figures are estimates. Chairperson Garner asked if Mr. Wood had a good estimate of what the funding for 2007 projects would be. Mr. Wood responded it is estimated that about \$29 million will be available and, depending on how the split goes, \$6 million for development and \$23 million for acquisition projects.

Mr. Charters asked why the oil and gas revenues are dropping from \$19 million to \$12 million when oil is \$85 per barrel. Is the volume down that dramatic? Mr. Wood responded that that is a reflection of the Section 29 payment this year. This is the biggest and final payment. Mr. Charters asked if Section 29 was paid last year. Mr. Fedewa responded that a partial payment was made last year. Mr. Charters asked what this payment was. Mr. Fedewa was not sure, but this information will be provided to the Board at their December meeting.

### MNRTF Lump Sum and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

## VII. OTHER MATTERS AS ARE PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD.

None.

## VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The evening meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Tuesday, December 4, 2007, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing. The regular meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, December 5, 2007 (same location as evening meeting).

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

No quorum of the Board for official adjournment.

The meeting concluded at 12:15 PM.

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Bob Garner, Chairperson  
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Board of Trustees

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James Wood, Manager  
Grants Management

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DATE

